

Breakthrough in cancer research

3209. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Economic Times, dated 19th March, 2001 under the caption, "New breakthrough in cancer research";

(b) if so, this reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the study published in the Journal of National Academy of Sciences is authored by an Indian Scientist; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to offer any incentive to the scientist for a conclusive study in the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Heparin is a common anticoagulant which can help to prevent the spread of Cancer. However, it is pre-mature to recommend the use of this drug for day to-day prevention and treatment of cancer. The Central Drug Standard Control Organisation also has not received any application in regard to this drug.

(c) No information is available in this regard.

(d) There is no scheme under the National Cancer Control Programme in this regard.

Increasing number of TB patients in the country

†3210. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of TB patients in various parts of the country is increasing constantly;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to check this trend; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) India accounts for nearly one third of global TB burden and every year has about 2 million new cases of TB. However, trend of TB cases in the country reported under the National TB Control Programme shows more or less a static status over a period of last five years.

(b) and (c) To control the problem of tuberculosis, National TB Control Programme (NTCP) has been in operation since 1962. The programme is integrated with primary health care infrastructure and is implemented through a network of 446 districts TB Centres, 330 TB Clinics and about 47,600 beds. The drugs of domiciliary treatment are at present provided on 100% Central support basis. The Programme was reviewed by Committee of Experts in 1992 and based on the findings of the Committee, Government of India launched a Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) with an aim to cure at least 85% of new sputum positive cases and detect at least 70% of such cases. Present coverage under the revised strategy is about 365 million population. 8 out of 10 patients are being successfully treated under the strategy as compared to about 4 out of 10 in the previous programme.

Implementation of health care scheme in HP

3211. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored health care schemes being operated through NGOs in Himachal Pradesh togetherwith their locations;